



**Billing Code 4333–15**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**[FWS–R6–ES–2018–N087; FXES11130600000–189–FF06E000000]**

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Receipt of Recovery Permit Applications**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of permit applications; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have received applications for permits to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We invite the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to comment on these applications. Before issuing any of the requested permits, we will take into consideration any information that we receive during the public comment period.

**DATES:** We must receive your written comments by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** *Document availability and comment submission:* Submit requests for copies of the applications and related documents and submit any comments by one of the following methods. All requests and comments should specify the applicant name(s) and application number(s) (*e.g.*, **TEXXXXXX**):

- *Email:* permitsR6ES@fws.gov.
- *U.S. Mail:* Kate Norman, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Blvd, Suite 670, Lakewood, CO 80228.
- *Pickup/hand-delivery:* Call 303–236–4224 to make an appointment during regular business hours at Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 134 Union Blvd, Suite 670, Lakewood, CO 80228.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kathy Konishi, Recovery Permits Coordinator, Ecological Services, 303–236–4224 (phone); permitsR6ES@fws.gov (email). Individuals who are hearing or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 for TTY assistance.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on applications for a permit under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The requested permits would allow the applicants to conduct activities intended to promote recovery of species that are listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA.

## **Background**

With some exceptions, the ESA prohibits activities that constitute take of listed species unless a Federal permit is issued that allows such activity. The ESA's definition of "take" includes such activities as pursuing, harassing, trapping, capturing, or collecting in addition to hunting, shooting, harming, wounding, or killing.

A recovery permit issued by us under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA authorizes the permittee to conduct activities with endangered or threatened species for scientific purposes that promote recovery or for enhancement of propagation or survival of the species. These activities often include such prohibited actions as capture and collection. Our regulations implementing section 10(a)(1)(A) for these permits are found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 50 CFR 17.22 for endangered wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.32 for threatened wildlife species, 50 CFR 17.62 for endangered plant species, and 50 CFR 17.72 for threatened plant species.

## **Permit Application Available for Review and Comment**

Proposed activities in the following permit requests are for the recovery and enhancement of propagation or survival of the species in the wild. The ESA requires that we invite public comment before issuing this permit. Accordingly, we invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies and the public to submit written data, views, or arguments with respect to these applications. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are those supported by quantitative information or studies.

<b>Application Number</b>	<b>Applicant, City, State</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Take Activity</b>	<b>Permit Action</b>
TE91970C-0	US Army Corps of Engineers, Yankton, SD	Interior least tern ( <i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i> )	Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota	Survey and monitor to determine baseline population numbers	New
TE103272-4	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	Interior least tern ( <i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i> )	Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Georgia, South Carolina	Survey, monitor, attach radio transmitters to determine baseline population numbers	Renew
TE186282-2	Nebraska Department of Transportation	American burying beetle ( <i>Nicrophorus americanus</i> )	Nebraska	Survey and monitor to determine baseline population numbers	Renew
TE08832A-1	Utah State University	Bonytail chub ( <i>Gila elegans</i> ), Colorado pikeminnow ( <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i> ), razorback sucker ( <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i> )	Utah	Survey and monitor to determine baseline population numbers	Renew
TE99824C-0	RedFISH Environmental	Bonytail chub ( <i>Gila elegans</i> ), Colorado pikeminnow ( <i>Ptychocheilus lucius</i> ), razorback sucker ( <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i> ), humpback chub ( <i>Gila cypha</i> )	Colorado, Utah, Wyoming	Survey and monitor to determine baseline population numbers	New

### ***Public Availability of Comments***

Written comments we receive become part of the administrative record associated with this *Federal Register* notice. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

### **Next Steps**

If we decide to issue permits to any of the applicants listed in this notice, we will publish a notice in the *Federal Register*.

**Authority**

We publish this notice under section 10(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

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**Michael Thabault,***Assistant Regional Director,**Mountain-Prairie Region.*

[FR Doc. 2018-22967 Filed: 10/19/2018 8:45 am; Publication Date: 10/22/2018]